(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CIDA have offered an assistance of the order of Canadian $ 36.5 million through UNICEF for the Immunisation Programme in India.

Deteriorating S.T.D. Service

831. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports of the decreasing efficiency of S.T.D. facilities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the difficulty in obtaining calls through STD;

(c) whether deterioration in machinery and equipment is the cause thereof;

(d) what steps are being taken to tone up the level of efficiency of STD service by way of instituting better quality controls and equipment maintenance; and

(e) what are the names of cities where STD service is not up to the mark?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNCATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The STD/TAX network is spread all over the country and has mixed type of equipments i.e., both electro-mechanical and electronic. Even though the efficiency of STD services varies according to the type of equipments working at different places, it is gradually improving.

(b) and (c) The old type of equipment i.e., electromechanical type has some inherent limitations. These would be overcome by the electronic equipment which is being gradually introduced in the network.

(d) Following measures have been taken to bring improvement in the performance of STD services;

(i) A comprehensive Plan of Action has been worked out for the improvement of STD service and it is in various stages of implementation all over the country. This includes extensive testing and technical measures for improvement of the local exchanges, STD/TAX and transmission equipment.

(ii) Periodic service quality tests are regularly taken to monitor the STD performance levels and identify the areas of improvement.

(iii) Parameters controlling the performance of trunk automatic exchanges (TAXS) are regularly monitored.

(iv) Adequacy of circuits is watched regularly to ease the congestion. Satellite circuits have also been provided linking a number of trunk automatic exchanges.

(v) Old electromechanical trunk automatic exchanges are planned to be replaced by modern electronic automatic exchanges (digital) type and 16 such trunk automatic exchanges are planned to be provided in the 7th Plan Period.

(vi) A study is being made for introduction of surveillance equipment for the network with inbuilt facilities for applying network management practices for better quality of controls.

(e) The STD services are showing a gradual improvement.

Discussion with All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association

832. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had stated that as All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association was only a de facto recognised association. Government did not discuss with them the matter of revision of pay scales of teachers;